

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 1. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).

-
1. (Amended) A method of preparing a nucleic acid array on a solid support, wherein said solid support is substantially planar or comprises substantially planar regions, said method comprising:
- AI
- a) attaching a plurality of nucleic acids to said support to form an array; and
 - b) drying said array by exposing to a dry atmosphere for a period of at least 30 seconds.
-

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the solid support is substantially planar or comprises substantially planar regions. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 12, lines 17-20 of the specification.

References from Information Disclosure Statement

Copies of the references provided with the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 25, 2001 will be filed under separate cover.

Rejection of Claims 1-2 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Torrence, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,677,289 (Reference B). The Examiner states Torrence, *et al.*, teaches a method of preparing a nucleic acid on a solid support comprising the steps of attaching a plurality of nucleic acids to the support to form an array and drying the array for 60 seconds.

Claims 1 and 2, as amended, are not anticipated by Torrence, *et al.* The amended claims specify that the solid support is substantially planar or comprised of substantially planar regions.